

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 EB-07 /020 R

DRAFTED BY JGSULLIVAN:ARA/CEN/CR

APPROVED BY DLAZAR:ARA/CEN

ARA/CEN: AMBASSADOR TODMAN

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R 281809Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF LA NACION REPORTER

1. AT REQUEST OF EMBASSY OF COSTA RICA, "LA NACION" REPORTER, EDGAR ESPINOSA, INTERVIEWED AMBASSADOR TODMAN ON FEBRUARY 25. ESPINOSA'S SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS DEALT WITH VESCO AND MEAT RESTRAINT PROGRAM. TO THE FORMER, AMBASSADOR TODMAN REPLIED THAT U.S. HAD IN ITS EARLIER EXTRADITION EFFORT BELIEVED ITS CASE TO BE A GOOD ONE AND SO WAS VERY SERIOUS, AND THAT U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO TREAT VESCO MATTER AS A SERIOUS LEGAL QUESTION IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUS FRAUD ALLEGATION. ESPINOSA ASKED IF AMBASSADOR TODMAN WOULD BRING DIPLOMATIC INSTRUCTIONS ON VESCO; THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THIS WAS A MATTER FOR THE LEGAL PROCESSES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. ON MEAT, AMBASSADOR TODMAN REPLIED THAT THE U.S. UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFICULTIES OF COSTA RICA AND WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ADDRESS THEM WHILE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE PROGRAM.

2. ESPINOSA ALSO MET WITH SENATE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF WITH SENATOR JACKSON, WITH SEC OFFICIALS AND WITH

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ARA/PLC. KISSINGER

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